

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1-11. (Canceled)

12. (Original) A method for producing animal feed preparations by combining astaxanthin-containing plants or parts of plants of the genus Tagetes or astaxanthin-containing extracts of astaxanthin-containing plants or parts of plants of the genus Tagetes and customary animal feed components.

13. (Original) The method according to claim 12, wherein the astaxanthin-containing plants or parts of plants of the genus Tagetes or the astaxanthin-containing extracts of astaxanthin-containing plants or parts of plants of the genus Tagetes are, before the combination with animal feedstuffs, processed into a form which makes possible combination with animal feedstuffs.

14. (Currently amended) A method for pigmenting animals or animal products by ~~oral administration of~~ orally administering astaxanthin-containing plants or parts of plants of the genus Tagetes or astaxanthin-containing extracts of astaxanthin-containing plants or parts of plants of the genus Tagetes to animals.

15. (Currently amended) A method for producing pigmented animals or animal products by ~~oral administration of~~ orally administering astaxanthin-containing plants or parts of plants of the genus Tagetes or astaxanthin-containing extracts of astaxanthin-containing plants or parts of plants of the genus Tagetes to animals.

16. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 14 ~~or 15~~, wherein the astaxanthin-containing plants or parts of plants of the genus Tagetes or the astaxanthin-containing extracts of astaxanthin-containing plants or parts of plants of the genus Tagetes are admixed to animal feed preparations and the animal feed preparation is orally administered to animals.

17. (Original) The method according to claim 16, wherein the astaxanthin-containing plants or parts of plants of the genus Tagetes or the astaxanthin-containing extracts of astaxanthin-containing plants or parts of plants of the genus Tagetes, before admixture to animal feed preparations, are processed into a form which makes possible admixture to animal feed preparations.

18. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 14 ~~or 15~~, wherein the astaxanthin-containing plants or parts of plants of the genus *Tagetes* or the astaxanthin-containing extracts of astaxanthin-containing plants or parts of plants of the genus *Tagetes* are orally administered directly to animals.

19. (Original) The method according to claim 18, wherein the astaxanthin-containing plants or parts of plants of the genus *Tagetes* or the astaxanthin-containing extracts of astaxanthin-containing plants or parts of plants of the genus *Tagetes*, before administration, are processed into a form which makes possible direct oral administration to animals.

20. (Currently amended) The method according to ~~one of claims 14 to 19~~ claim 14, wherein the astaxanthin-containing plants of the genus *Tagetes* have, by genetic manipulation, been made capable of producing astaxanthin.

21. (Currently amended) The method according to ~~one of claims 14 to 20~~ claim 14, wherein the animals are selected from the group consisting of fish, ~~crustaceae, galliformes and anatradae~~ Crustaceae, Galliformes and Anatridae.

22. (Original) The method according to claim 21, wherein the animals are selected from the group consisting of salmonids, shrimps, crabs, chickens, ducks, geese and flamingo.

23. (Currently amended) The method according to ~~one of claims 14 to 22~~ claim 14, wherein the animal products are selected from the group consisting of meat, skin, feathers and egg.

24. (Currently amended) The method according to ~~one of claims 14 to 23~~ claim 14, wherein the plant parts used are flower heads or petals.

25. (Canceled)

26. (Original) An animal feed preparation comprising astaxanthin-containing plants or parts of plants of the genus *Tagetes* or the astaxanthin-containing extracts of astaxanthin-containing plants or parts of plants of the genus *Tagetes*.

27. (Original) A pigmenting agent comprising astaxanthin-containing plants or parts of plants of the genus *Tagetes* or the astaxanthin-containing extracts of astaxanthin-containing plants or parts of plants of the genus *Tagetes*.

28. (Original) The pigmenting agent according to claim 27, consisting of astaxanthin-containing plants or parts of plants of the genus *Tagetes* or astaxanthin-containing extracts of astaxanthin-containing plants or parts of plants of the genus *Tagetes*.

29. (Currently amended) The pigmenting agent according to claim 27 ~~or~~ 28, wherein the plant parts used are flower heads or petals.